

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a functionally equivalent variant of said amino acid sequence.
2. An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1 which is cDNA comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence which hybridises to SEQ ID NO:1 under stringent conditions.
3. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a consecutive 20 base pair nucleotide portion identical in sequence to a consecutive 20 base pair portion of SEQ ID NO:1.
4. An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a functionally equivalent variant thereof.
5. An isolated polypeptide comprising a consecutive 10 amino acid portion identical in sequence to a consecutive 10 amino acid portion of SEQ ID NO:2.
6. A method of producing a polypeptide which comprises culturing a host cell containing an expression vector containing a polynucleotide sequence as specified in claim 1, under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.
7. An expression vector containing a polynucleotide sequence as specified in claim 1.
8. An antibody which is immunoreactive with a polypeptide according to claim 4.
9. An antisense oligonucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to that of a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide according to claim 4.

10. A polynucleotide probe comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide according to claim 1, or a complement thereof.
11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 1, a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a functionally equivalent variant thereof, an antibody which is immunoreactive with said polypeptide or an antisense oligonucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to that of said polynucleotide, optionally together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
12. A method of treating an inflammatory disease which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a polynucleotide according to claim 1, a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a functionally equivalent variant thereof, an antibody which is immunoreactive with said polypeptide or an antisense oligonucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to that of said polynucleotide.
13. A method of identifying a substance which modulates the activity of a polypeptide according to claim 4 comprising combining a candidate substance with a polypeptide according to claim 4 and measuring the effect of the candidate substance on said activity.
14. A method of detecting genetic abnormality in a subject which comprises incubating a genetic sample from the subject with a polynucleotide probe according to claim 10, under conditions where the probe hybridises to complementary polynucleotide sequence, to produce a first reaction product, and comparing the first reaction product to a control reaction product obtained with a normal genetic sample, where a difference between the first reaction product and the control reaction product indicates a genetic abnormality in the subject or a predisposition to developing a disease.
15. A method of detecting the presence of a polynucleotide according to claim 1 in a cell or tissue which comprises contacting DNA from the cell or tissue with a polynucleotide probe comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide according to claim 1 under conditions where the probe is specifically hybridizable with a polynucleotide according to claim 1, and detecting whether hybridization occurs.

16. A pair of oligonucleotides useful as primers for amplification of a fragment of a polynucleotide according to claim 1, each oligonucleotide of said pair being at least 15 nucleotides in length and said pair having sequences such that when used in a polymerase chain reaction with human genomic DNA or a suitable human cDNA target, they result in synthesis of a DNA fragment containing part or all of the nucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide according to claim 1.

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